

# Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

January 2, 2014

Special Accountability  
Report Edition

Archives

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Welcome to a special edition of Connections. In this edition we are sharing highlights from the annual accountability report MoDOT submits to the Missouri legislature. These highlights are a snapshot of some of our successes and challenges and it's good information for all employees to know.

This issue also features photos of some of the employees who keep our organization running.

We hope you enjoy this special edition. If you would like to view the entire accountability report, it can be found at - [2013 Report to the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight](#).

## Being Accountable

### Safety First

#### Highway Deaths Trend Downward, But Many Still Not Buckling Up.

Traffic fatalities on Missouri roads climbed slightly in 2012, following a six-year decline. And although traffic fatalities have trended downward since 2005, still, in those eight years 7,616 lives have been lost. Even one is too many.

Maintaining Missouri's system and improving its safety with temporary funding made possible by Amendment 3 in 2004 and federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is over. Without continued attention, the safety of Missouri citizens will be compromised.

### Bumps in the Road

The downward turn in transportation revenue means it is inevitable that the condition of Missouri's roads and bridges will deteriorate. MoDOT's purchasing power has been severely compromised with no change in fuel taxes over the past 20 years; a period of time during which the staples of the industry – concrete, asphalt and steel – have doubled and tripled.



Seventy percent of MoDOT's funding comes from federal and state fuel taxes. But with higher fuel prices, people are driving less. And, cars are more fuel efficient than ever. That's good for the environment, but bad for transportation funding. Fuel tax revenues have become a declining revenue stream.

Consequently, after a six-year period during which MoDOT's construction budget averaged \$1.2 billion as a result of temporary funding flows from Amendment 3 and the federal government, it has now slid to about \$700 million per year. That is barely enough to maintain the state's extensive system much less deliver the kind of

projects that improve safety, reduce congestion and produce jobs.

In five short years, it is projected that MoDOT funding for road and bridge construction will drop to \$425 million at best. That's far short of what is needed to maintain Missouri's network of nearly 34,000 miles of highways and 10,400 bridges.

Progress in 2013

- We are proud of the work we have been able to accomplish this year despite a significantly decreased budget.
- We have a huge system – nearly 34,000 miles of highways and 10,400 bridges.
- Our roads are in better condition – 88.5 percent of major roads are in good condition, but it’s unlikely they will stay that way.
- Fatalities in Missouri are the lowest since the 1940s, but still: 7,616 lives have been lost on the state’s roadways in the past eight years.
- We continue to bring projects in on time and under budget.
- 85 percent of Missourians are satisfied with us, including a record 32 percent who say they are highly satisfied.
- We were recognized for having two of the most innovative projects in the country – the Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program, which repaired or replaced more than 800 of the state’s poorest bridges, and the Route 5 Shared Four-Lane project in Camden and Laclede Counties. Safe & Sound won the “People’s Choice” award in the “America’s Transportation Awards” competition as one of the nation’s two best projects. Safe & Sound received more than 330,000 votes from across the country. The Shared Four-Lane won regional honors in the same competition.

A Vision for Missouri’s Transportation Future – MoDOT Has Been “On the Move”

In January, MoDOT launched a public engagement program – “On the Move – to learn what Missourians want from their transportation system over the next 20 years. The effort is being used to update Missouri’s federally required long range transportation plan.

From those discussions MoDOT developed four goals for the state’s transportation future:

- Take care of the transportation system and services we enjoy today.
- Keep all travelers safe, no matter the mode of transportation
- Invest in projects and spur economic growth and create jobs.
- Give Missourians better transportation choices (more viable urban and rural transit, friendlier bike and pedestrian accommodations, improvements in rail, ports and airport operations).

Making progress to meet those goals, however, will be difficult. MoDOT Director Dave Nichols said, “It’s clear that what Missourians want from their transportation system far exceeds the revenue we forecast will be available for transportation over the next 20 years.”

The final draft will be presented to the commission this year. More information is available online at [www.missourionthemove.org](http://www.missourionthemove.org).



People Vote Safe & Sound One of the Nation’s Best Projects

MoDOT’s Safe & Sound Bridge Improvement Program, which built more than 800 new bridges across the state, won the People’s Choice Award in the America’s Transportation Awards competition sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, AAA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The project was chosen in a public vote and received more than 330,000 votes from across the nation. Its designation meant it was considered one of the nation’s two best projects completed in 2012 – and made Missouri one of only four states that have won more than once in this seven-year-old competition.

Safety Begins with Me

A new employee safety program began in July to recognize all eligible safety-sensitive and non-safety-sensitive employees, and safety-sensitive work units, who have an exceptional work safety record within a calendar year. These employees and work units will have met the safety commitments of:

**My Safety Commitment**



**I’m Safe** I will use my knowledge, awareness and attitude to make me a safe employee.



**What I Use Is Safe** I will properly use personal protective equipment, procedures, equipment and materials to ensure my safety.



**Where I Am Is Safe** I will ensure my building, environment and job site are prepared and maintained to ensure my co-workers and I are safe.



**My Customers Are Safe** I will consider the impact of my decisions and actions on my customers.



**So, We All Go Home Safe** I will share safety information with my team and speak up when I see something unsafe.

*I will make safety my highest priority and do everything within my power so everyone goes home safe every day.*

**SAFETY  
BEGINS  
WITH ME**

Day of Remembrance



MoDOT began new tradition – an annual Day of Remembrance – to honor the memory of employees who died in service to the state of Missouri. The first observance was held September 19, and henceforth will be held on the third Thursday of September. The date coincides with the 2012 death of Clifton Scott, who was killed on Interstate 70 while working an accident scene in his role as a motorist assist operator.

Records indicate that 131 MoDOT employees have died while working on the roadside, in shops and sheds or as a result of a crash on the way to a meeting. Unfortunately, the exact number of fallen colleagues is unknown. Reliable records are available only since 1946.

### MHTC Approves a Shrinking STIP

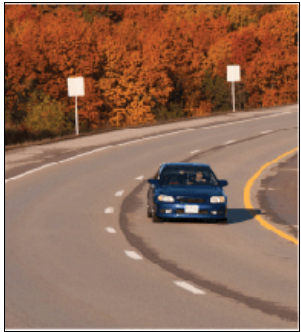
The 2014-2018 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program was approved by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission on July 9. The STIP lists all transportation projects planned by state, metropolitan and regional planning agencies for a five-year period.

Several years ago, the STIP contained over a billion dollars' worth of new road and bridge construction projects each year, generating jobs, boosting the economy and expanding the safe and efficient movement of people and goods across the state and the country.

Today's STIP, though, looks very different – at about \$700 million in fiscal year 2014 and declining thereafter.

"Roadway resurfacing, preventative maintenance, and rehabilitation projects make up the majority of the program," said Nichols. "This is the kind of work that will maintain the existing transportation system for a while, but it won't last forever."

"We are committed to taking care of our system for as long as we can with the resources we have," said Nichols. "But we face big challenges because we are dependent on fuel taxes as a revenue source, and that resource is dwindling as cars get more fuel efficient and people drive less as a result of high gas prices."



### Bringing Innovation to MoDOT Projects

The innovative spirit of MoDOT engineers and industry partners was displayed repeatedly in 2013.

- Three more diverging diamond interchanges were completed, bringing improved safety and traffic flow to particularly busy locations in Joplin, Columbia and St. Peters.
- Another innovative design – the shared four-lane highway on Route 5 between Camdenton and Lebanon – won the Governor's Award for Quality and Productivity and was also saluted by AASHTO as one of the nation's best projects in the Midwest.
- In July, MoDOT received the 2013 Value Engineering Award from the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials for a design change suggested by a subcontractor working on the Stan Musial Memorial Veterans Bridge in St. Louis that resulted in an \$845,669 savings to the project.
- MoDOT continues to enjoy great success with the design-build project delivery method. Three design-build projects are under construction and due to be completed in 2014 and 2015 – the final phase of the Page Ave./Route 364 extension in St. Charles County, the replacement of the I-70 Manchester Bridges in Kansas City, and the I-64 Daniel Boone Missouri River Bridge in St. Louis.

### MoDOT Remains Committed To:

- **Keeping our roads and bridges in the best condition we can for as long as we can with the resources we have;**
- **Keeping our citizens and our employees safe; and**
- **Delivering outstanding customer service.**

## The Faces of Accountability

### Employee Advisory Council - Serving MoDOT Employees

*by Kim Russell*

The Employee Advisory Council fosters open, honest and productive communication between employees and administration with an emphasis on matters of concern to all employees. The department recognizes one of the most integral components of MoDOT is its employees. So, it is the mission of the EAC to foster and enhance a positive work environment for all MoDOT employees.



The EAC will assist management and employees with policy review; will communicate with employees and senior management in a timely and forthright manner; will be fair, honest, and open while acting with integrity in handling matters concerning employees; and will hold all matters confidential within the EAC.

Currently, a MAPS subcommittee has been formed to examine the MAPS review process as requested by an EAC concern. All EAC members will be polling a cross section of MoDOT employees from each district and division, making sure to include both supervisory and non-supervisory job titles, to determine their current level of satisfaction with the MAPS process. Once the polling is completed, the results will be collected, analyzed and used to respond to the EAC concern.



**MoDOT's Employee Advisory Council members.**

There are several vacancies so new members are always welcome! To find out more about the EAC or to become a member please visit <http://wwwi.intranet/eac/default.htm>.

**Northwest District**



**Crews from the Clearmont building used two track hoes to speed the process for several culvert replacements on Route FF in Nodaway County in October.**



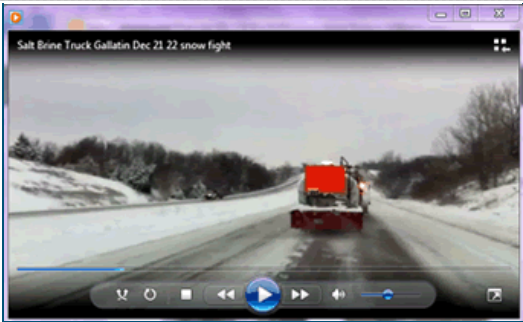
**Employees from several crews worked together to wash bridges in Nodaway County in April.**



**Crews work to clear debris from flooding in Chariton County.**



**Crews from Milan maintenance helped with road closures and signage for a funeral procession to bring a fallen soldier home to rest in September.**



This video shows Gallatin crews running the salt brine truck on I-35 during the most recent snow fight. [Video](#)



Mark Wiley, Tisha George, Brad Bowles, Billy Collins and Brennen Price worked to patch potholes on Route MM in Harrison County in March.

Northeast District



Aaron Carr, CDL trainer with the Northeast District, is pictured training new seasonal workers for snow removal in St. Louis (Lance Uthe, Jim Brandburger, Ken Booher).



The District completed a new uniquely-designed interchange at South Lincoln Drive in Troy which included three roundabouts.



MoDOT asked its contractor to perform repairs on the U.S. 54 Mississippi River Bridge in Louisiana (Champ Clark Bridge) while it was closed during flooding in April.



MoDOT crews all over Northeast Missouri spent several weeks cleaning up debris from tornadoes and high winds in May.

John Resa of Shelbina maintenance was the winner of the "how many items?" guessing jar on display at the fall employee meetings this year. There were 201 items in the jar and John's guess was 211.

The contest raised \$184 for the charity of the winner's choice. John chose the Shelby County Senior Citizens Association as the recipient of the funds.





**Kansas City District**



While treating bridges with salt in the Kansas City area during the winter storm Dec. 21, Senior Maintenance Worker David Winship found himself in a unique position to do a little more than usual to help a motorist in need. Using his pocketknife to cut through a convertible top, he rescued a motorist trapped in her car after it had slid from the highway and overturned.



Maintenance employees were part of the team testing the long-range acoustic device as a potential solution for alerting motorists of slow-moving MoDOT vehicles.



The District hosts an annual Big Truck Night for the community. More than 50 district employees in all departments donate their time to take part in this fun, family focused event.



District employees geared up for snow with a day-long snow training.



District Office employees volunteered for long shifts in the Emergency Operations Center to answer customer calls during the blizzard of 2013.

Central District



Central District customer M.J. Ordway of Jefferson City and his daughter had been cleaning up Route J in Cole County for the Adopt-A-Highway program, when he noticed something strange.

Before they could request pickup of the trash-filled bags, the bags kept disappearing. Later, Mr. Ordway found out that Senior Maintenance Worker Roger Abbott had been coming by to collect them on his way to work.

"You have to love an employee who goes above and beyond without being asked and does it without receiving any credit," said Ordway. "And we heard he was just coming back to work that week after a serious accident. We just wanted to give a shout out to this wonderful guy."



Jefferson City Senior Maintenance Worker Richard Murray went the extra mile to help reunite a customer with his lost property. While working earlier this month along Route 50 near Taos with fellow crew member Leon Maasen, Richard came across a sack of baseball gloves near the roadway and returned them to customer Jack Morris.



In February, former MoDOT Director Kevin Keith (left) presented St. Robert Maintenance Crew Leader Arlis Humphrey with the Meritorious Safety Award for rescuing an unresponsive man he encountered lying in the middle of the road. The award is the highest level of safety award presented by MoDOT and the Commission.



Donnie Payne, senior construction inspector, and Westly McPeters, senior construction technician, both of the Rolla Project Office, display the plaque from the Missouri Asphalt Pavement Association recognizing a chip-seal improvement project on Route C in Washington County as one of the top improvement projects.



MoDOT Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger and the senior management team paid tribute to Jefferson City Resident Engineer Terry Imhoff and maintenance workers from the Fulton, Williamsburg and Mokane facilities for outstanding work.

The group of maintenance workers was recognized for their efforts to ensure a quality product on the Route 54 concrete replacement project between Jefferson City and Holts Summit. Those employees included Crew Leader Jeremiah Werdehausen and crew members Matt Canole, James Hake, Shahid Koochak-yazdi, Timmy Gallatin, Tony Embrey, Jarrod Urban, Kale Stewart, Melanie Mayes, Travis Gruenloh, Donnie Maddox, Brad Murray, Steve Owens and Ricky Ramirez.

Imhoff was recognized for his recent actions in the face of a local tragedy. A local community near Jefferson City had lost one of its young members and the funeral was scheduled to take place on the same day a resurfacing project was to begin on the highway used by the funeral procession. Imhoff spoke to the contractor for the project and was able to delay the start date of resurfacing by one day, so as not to create any issues with the funeral.



District Design Engineer Nicole Hood, second from left, accepts the America's Transportation Award for Innovation for the Route 5 Shared Four-Lane Project in Camden and Laclede counties.



District Transportation Project Designer Susan Ivy, her husband Shawn and their children Luke and Brooke volunteered to ring the bell for the Salvation Army's annual holiday donation drive through their church Wesley United Methodist in Jefferson City.

"We are blessed to have more than we truly need - others don't have nearly enough - helping out is the right thing to do," said Susan Ivy. "And I'd like for my kids to grow up into adults who understand the importance of helping others and the best way I know to teach that is by doing."

St. Louis District





Maintenance workers Mike Blattner (left) and Dennis Mazur (right) check the oil levels before beginning their snow plow routes.



Tina White, customer service representative, responds to phone calls from the public at the St. Louis Transportation Management Center during a snow storm.



Cheryl Tucker, materials inspector, gets equipment to begin testing in the St. Louis laboratory.

**Southwest District**



**CHECKING A VALVE:** Inspecting a propane delivery truck in Ozark are Senior Transportation Enforcement Investigators Houston Schooler (left), and Kelly Roth of the Motor Carrier Services office in Springfield.



**LAYING LONG PATCHES:** Working along Benton County Route A east of Cole Camp are Warsaw Senior Maintenance Worker Kurt Bagley, in grader, and Cole Camp Senior Maintenance Worker Kris Eckhoff, on roller.



**POTHOLE PATROL:** Joplin Senior Maintenance Worker Charles Wilson makes a quick repair to the I-44 pavement near Mount Vernon. Joplin Senior Maintenance Worker Leilani Stewart drives one of three protection trucks.

**ANSWERING PHONES:** Senior Design Technician Steve McClellan, left, gets tips on how to handle customer calls from Senior Customer Service Representative Michelle Kelly in Springfield.



**INVENTORY CONTROL:** Checking in a package at the Southwest District Warehouse is Senior General Services Technician Debra Vinson.



**AIR CONTENT TEST:** Checking the concrete mix on a roundabout construction project on Route 171 in Webb City is Joplin Senior Construction Inspector David Drake.

**Southeast District**



In September, the Southeast District held a ceremony to celebrate completion of the roundabout at Route W/Lexington Avenue/Kingsway Drive in Cape Girardeau. The new roundabout helps ease congestion in this location and improves safety.



To help make the holidays a little brighter for Southeast Missouri families in need, the district hosted its annual Christmas Angels chili dinner and also held a chili cook-off during the district's first health and safety fair. Raising over \$5,000, the district helped more than 100 children. Congrats to the winners of the first chili cook-off: Monnie Jones, Mark Hager, Duane and Janice Duke and Sue Sifford. Angie Temple, Enos Criddle, Mackie Gaddis and Sandy



Before the first official day of winter, the district was already busy fighting its first bout of winter weather. Snow plow operators like Mike Hyslop worked split shifts around the clock to keep the traveling public safe.



Taurone won the soup contest.



The Patton shed submitted a post driver to the 2013-2014 Innovations Challenge. The innovation was presented at the Southeast District's Innovations Showcase on Dec. 17. The post driver is mounted to the rear arm of the backhoe to make driving posts for multiple signs, such as chevrons, quicker and easier.

Bridge Division



Not your typical MoDOT dirty job. Three of MoDOT's dive team members - (left to right) Matt Geiger, Chuck Dolejsi and Vince Kaimann.

Financial Services Division





During 2013, Financial Services - Accounts Payable focused on improving customer service with the help of their "Traveling Troll." The troll was passed from one team member to the next any time an act of outstanding customer service was observed. This act of customer service could be exhibited towards their fellow team mates or to others within MoDOT. The department had a lot of fun passing the troll around and could do a little bragging about the good things the team mates did.

Human Resources

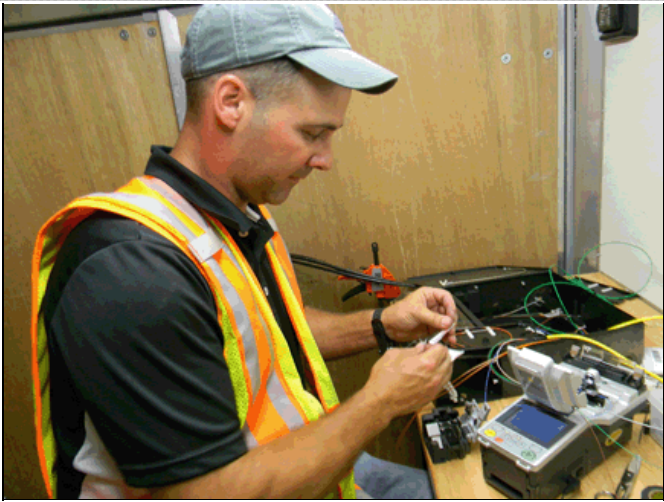


The Human Resources Division, along with CADD and some other MoDOT contributors, donated enough food, toiletries, books, cards, etc., to fill 30 care packages to send to our troops in Afghanistan for Christmas.



The Human Resources Division held their annual Frozen Turkey Bowling tournament on Nov. 20 in conjunction with their service awards/Thanksgiving luncheon. For the past two years, HR has invited CADD to participate in the luncheon and bowling. For the second year in a row, CADD won the Turkey Bowling contest.

Information Systems



**Darrell Patrick from Central Office Information Systems is shown splicing fiber optic cable in Southeast District. Darrell is working on the Show-Me Fiber exchange project that connected eight MoDOT facilities, two CCTV cameras and two digital message boards.**

**From The Commission**



**The Financial Services Division received the Innovation in Project Finance and Financial Management Award from FHWA for a proposal to sell existing and future State Infrastructure Bank loans to increase lending capacity and support additional highway projects. MoDOT is the first recipient of this new award.**



**Assistant Chief Engineer Don Hillis retired in 2013 with 29 years of service to the department. The Commission thanked Don for his service to Missouri and congratulated him on his retirement.**



**Joe Dotson, traffic supervisor in MoDOT's Southwest District, was the recipient of the 2013 Missouri State Employee Award of Distinction for Safety. Joe was presented the award by Governor Jay Nixon.**



**Dale Niece, Northeast District maintenance superintendent, officially retired March 1 and was given his retirement plaque by District Engineer Paula Gough during the March Commission meeting, which highlighted winter operations. Even though Dale had plenty of time to take off before his official retirement date, he was fighting snow right up until March 1.**



**MoDOT Motor Carrier Services Director Jan Skouby retired from the department in November after nearly 23 years of service. Commission Chair Joe Carmichael congratulates Jan on her service and retirement.**

**Connections**

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

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**Comments & Suggestions**

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at [Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov).

**Mission**

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

